

The Washington Times

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NON-PARTISAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS.

It is doubtful if there is another city in the United States where the political affiliations of executive officers are of such little consequence as in the District of Columbia. There has not been in the past, and there is not now, any disposition in the executive office of the local government to raise the question of party politics at any time.

It is difficult to understand, therefore, why there should be a storm of protest because of the President's selections for District Commissioners. At best it would be an empty honor from the standpoint of partisan politics to have a representative of either party on the Board of Commissioners.

In the District of Columbia more than in any other city in the United States the executive officers are devoted to their official duties without ever a thought of politics. It is undoubtedly a fact that a majority of the people of the District do not know which one of the present civilian Commissioners is a Republican and which one is a Democrat. It would seem to be a source of gratification to the people of the District that in this instance the President was able to throw aside the question of politics and select the best men available without regard to their professions of political faith. We are confident that President Taft would have made exactly the same selections had Mr. Rudolph and General Johnston been Democrats.

The President has demonstrated on more than one occasion that party affiliations do not weigh heavily with him when in search of good men for responsible positions. Whatever may be the political beliefs of Mr. Rudolph and General Johnston we have every confidence that the citizens of Washington will be given an admirable non-partisan administration. It should be a source of satisfaction that the District government is so absolutely divorced from politics, and we are confident that even the Democratic Senators will take this view of the matter and unhesitatingly confirm the President's nominations.

SENATOR ELKINS ON HIGHER COST OF LIVING.

Senator Elkins of West Virginia, head of the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee, who has lately introduced a resolution for a sweeping inquiry by a select committee of the Senate into the increase in prices and the reasons therefor, has recently given out an interview in which he tells some of the reasons that have moved him to try to bring about an investigation into the cost of living problem. Senator Elkins is a man of wealth, a large employer of labor, a hard-headed business man, and one of the Republican leaders in the upper house of Congress. He is not given to theorizing, but is a practical man of affairs. Therefore what he says of the increased cost of living is of unusual significance.

Senator Elkins declares that a situation has been reached with respect to the increased cost of living that is alarming. "The cost of living," he asserts, "is chasing wages and incomes, and it is going ahead of them in many cases. That brings want and misery to large numbers of families. It means that women and children are not getting proper food and clothing, and that children cannot be sent to school and get either an education or the foundation of an education. And that means that our civilization is being injured. Food, shelter, and clothing are the three absolute essentials of every family. The cost of all these has advanced alarmingly. They are absolutely fundamental to comfort and health."

What the causes are for the increased cost of living, Senator Elkins does not pretend to say. He is mainly concerned on getting to the root of the difficulty, and believes that even if Congress cannot remove the cause or causes, the illumination that an investigation will shed will be valuable. He recognizes that trusts and monopolies may be in part to blame for the high cost of living, and also that the increased gold supply has doubtless affected conditions. He views with concern the enormous drain of American money to Europe, calculating it at about half a billion annually. He

considers that American money expended on the carriage of goods by foreign ships is not wisely spent. Further than this, he recognizes that undue tariffs on some articles, such as sugar, are probably responsible for a measure of the trouble. And he believes that as a people we are wildly and recklessly extravagant. "The French people live on what we waste," is the striking declaration of the West Virginia Senator. "We must learn to get more out of our farms and to contract fewer debts and find more ways of paying them."

That the situation is such as to absolutely and imperatively demand the attention of Congress is the firm conviction of Senator Elkins. This view is shared by many members of the House and Senate, though there are evidences that the leaders of the organization at each end of the Capitol are seeking to block any investigation. In view of the universal public concern and interest in this question, members of Congress who seek to prevent an honest inquiry into the cost of living can be looked on only in one light, and that is as being afflicted with profound obtuseness as to the state of mind of the people. The investigation should be ordered, and it should be unbiased and thorough.

THE GREAT PROBLEM OF COAL DISTRIBUTION.

All over the West, with the temperature making new low records, there is complaint that the coal supplies are exhausted, and the people in imminent danger of suffering. Indeed, in many places they are already unable to keep warm, while business is in a state of semi-suspension for want of fuel. Factories are closed and public institutions unable to keep open. It is not, primarily, a question of price, but of getting coal and having it moved.

The almost regular annual recurrence of this experience in various parts of the country is really caused by the carelessness of people about making provision of the winter's coal supply while there is yet time to do it in safety. Coal is the bulkiest of household commodities. The problem of finding cars and motive power to transport it, in times of pressing demand, is always serious. Storage likewise is expensive and limited.

The proper and economical method of storing coal is to use the coal bins of some millions of homes. If people would but learn the lesson of forehandness in this matter of coal; if they would buy their winter's supply during the summer, and put it into their bins, they would save money, and they would set insurance against coal famines. Coal, necessarily, is transported at comparatively low rates. It ought to be made just as easy and convenient as possible for the railroads to move it; and the only way to accomplish this is to unload the cars promptly, to take the coal from dealers to the homes and thus leave the dealers their storage capacity.

Unfortunately, few people will learn and profit by the lesson which experience has so many times pointed. They assume that some sort of Providential care will assure that there will be coal when they need it, and when they discover that their own thoughtlessness has brought them face to face with famine they blame the railroads and the dealers.

There is no excuse for long strings of railroad cars moving Westward from the coal mining regions, absolutely empty, during the summer and autumn. They ought to be carrying the winter's coal. But too often the sheds of dealers are full to their capacity before the people have begun to buy, and then there can be no more movement until the pressure of insistent demand arises. High prices and famine result.

NEW NOTES OF ALARM SOUNDED IN FAR EAST.

From time to time there come from the far East reports of an apprehensive nature concerning the outlook for another war between Russia and Japan. It seems hardly credible that these two nations, which but five years ago engaged in one of the bloodiest wars of history, should be intent on again flying at each other's throat. But there are multiplying evidences that a recurrence of the conflict is only too probable. In the first place, neither Russia nor Japan was satisfied with the outcome of the last war. The territory of the one now borders against that of the other over a vast distance. Japan is aggressively pushing to the west and north on the Asiatic mainland, and Russia is pouring millions of her people into Eastern Siberia, bent on getting a hold on that part of the world that cannot be shaken loose. Army and navy officers of the United States have long been convinced that before many years there would be another armed collision between Russia and Japan.

Now comes news from St. Petersburg that influential circles in Russia are profoundly perturbed by a report of M. Glesmer, a member of the industrial delegation in the council of the empire, who made a recent tour of the Eastern frontier territories of Russia and Japan. This report says Japan is once more minded to take the aggressive. Her military organization is being perfected, the spirit of the people is still resolute, and he is convinced Japan will use all her strength to drive Russia back from the Korean frontier. He believes Japanese statesmen are turning their minds to

an alliance with Germany, and points out such an alliance would be highly formidable and menacing to Russia. Contrary to an impression that many outside of Japan entertain, M. Glesmer declares what is probably the truth that Japan's economic position is sound and that she can go to war if need be. He looks for hostilities to begin in 1912. He urges Russia to prepare and to double track the Trans-Siberian road at once.

The outbreak of the last war found Russia, heedless of warnings, utterly unready. The indications are she will not again be found guilty of the folly of unpreparedness.

A NEW ERA AHEAD IN ASTRONOMY.

Prof. David Todd, in a lecture on the advances in astronomical science to his class at Amherst a few days ago, opened out a suggestive view of the future of astronomical science. He began by tracing the development of the telescope from the spy-glass of Galileo down to the wonderful instruments which, placed on the summits of great mountains, today enable the human eye to peer into the secrets of the heavens, and ransack the very universe in search of new wonders.

Along with the development of the telescope as a merely optical instrument has gone the growth and application of mathematical science, so that it is quite in touch with the advance of our optical abilities. What the reinforced eye can see, the marvelous appliances of science can analyze and weigh and measure until the human intellect is able to project itself along the routes over which a ray of light has been traveling for centuries toward the observer's eye, and understand what message the glimmering ray bears.

And yet we are only beginning, for Prof. Todd tells of the wonders of newer and greater lenses and reflectors which are now being constructed in different countries, which will yet vastly enlarge our fields of vision into the depths of space, and increase the accuracy of our observation of those heavenly bodies which heretofore we have been able to study. The most fascinating of all the sciences, to the average mind, is astronomy, because here the processes of the intellect have had to work out the scheme of a universe, from the small measure of data which has been made available by observation. Prof. Todd wants a magnificent observatory placed on Mt. Chimborazo, in the Ecuadorian Andes. It will be four miles in the air, above the currents of air and moisture which are the great obstacle to satisfactory observation; and it will be at the one place in the world where it is possible to get these conditions, together with a commanding sweep of the sky throughout both hemispheres.

It is evident that we are destined in future to expand our knowledge of the universe in which our own earth is so infinitesimal a part, in quite as great a ratio as the work of three centuries since Galileo has enlarged it.

A ruralist who has served twenty-seven years as postmaster wants a wife. She'd start in with a fine line of postal card gossip, no doubt.

The will of an Illinois man provides that his estate is not to be divided for one hundred years. Maybe Dr. Wu will consent to be administrator.

A contemporary says the Big Stick has been dragged from its hiding place. There oughtn't to be any dust clinging to it today.

These are the days when a man dodges around the corner to escape the fellow who went partnership in the annual swearing off.

A New York woman lives with nine hundred cats in three rooms. Luckily there's no husband to stumble in late at night.

More than 30,000 offices are to be run during this year. Surely these Democratic hopes shouldn't all be in vain.

A Chicago woman made \$12,000 during the past year from a herd of sixty cows. No water figured in the scheme, either.

Representative Adair wants to investigate the increased cost of living. Fine chance for the "me too" chorus.

The man who slipped during the icy spell was still indignant today because the other fellow laughed.

A Government bulletin says that the Indians drink less whisky now. However, a lot of other people are drinking more and acting Indian, so what's the difference.

Captain and Mrs. Sydney A. Cloman Are the Honor Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ridgely At Chevy Chase

Military Attache of American London Embassy and Wife Entertained.

Secretary of War and Mrs. Dickinson Among the Guests.

The Military Attache of the American Embassy in London and Mrs. Sydney A. Cloman were the guests of honor at a luncheon given by Mr. and Mrs. William Barrett Ridgely at the Chevy Chase Club today. Invited to meet them were:

Mrs. Dickinson, wife of the Secretary of War; Representative and Mrs. Weeks, Major and Mrs. Zallinski, Mr. and Mrs. Elio, Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Francis, Mr. and Mrs. Harlow, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Myers, Mr. and Mrs. Moss, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Britton, Mr. and Mrs. Phelps Brown, Mrs. Gaff, Major Squire, Dr. Bispham, and General Buchanan.

Major Slocum and Wife Expected Tomorrow.

Major Slocum, military attache of the American embassy at St. Petersburg, and Mrs. Slocum will arrive at the Shoreham Monday for a short visit to Washington.

Mrs. Richard Townsend entertained a dinner party of young people at her residence on Massachusetts avenue last evening. Covers were laid for thirty-two at the dinner, and a number of additional guests came in later for dancing.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Nelson Page were hosts at dinner last evening in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Francis V. Floyd, of Philadelphia.

Colonel and Mrs. Hodges entertained a party at dinner last evening in honor of Eudora Clover and Miss Mary McCauley. The additional guests were Miss Frances Noyes, Miss Maitland Marshall, Miss MacMurray, Lieutenant Goodale, Lieutenant Hall, Lieutenant Speece, Lieutenant Edgerton, and Dr. Davis.

Mrs. D. S. Stanley, wife of Major Stanley, is the guest of her father, Colonel Fordyce, in St. Louis, for the winter.

Mr. Taft at National Theater.

The President and Mrs. Taft occupied the Presidential box at the New National Theater last evening. They were accompanied by their house guests, Mrs. Charles Anderson, of Cincinnati, sister of Mrs. Taft; Miss Parsons, of Columbus, and Charles Taft.

The French Ambassador and Mme. Jusserand were the guests in whose honor the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and Mrs. Charles D. Walcott entertained a party at dinner last evening.

The additional guests were the Minister from Sweden and Mme. de Lager Perkins, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Wadsworth, Mr. and Mrs. Moses Taylor, of New York; Mr. and Mrs. Benson Jennings, of Maryland, and Frank Millet, of New York.

Lieut. and Mrs. Charles Patterson entertained a party of twelve young people at dinner last evening in honor of Miss Alice Boutell. They took their refreshments toward to the dance at the Navy Yard.

Commander and Mrs. William Manning Irwin were hosts at a dinner party at the Navy Yard.

Dinner Guests at Philadelphia Home.

The Vice President and Mrs. Sherman will go to Philadelphia on Tuesday to be the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tamm at dinner that evening. They will return to Washington on Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. George Whitfield Brown were among the dinner hosts of last evening. Covers were laid for twenty.

Invitations for the marriage of Miss Lillian Chew, daughter of John Chew, to J. Upshur Moorhead, were sent out yesterday. The ceremony will be performed by Bishop Harding, assisted by the Rev. Roland Cotton Smith on Wednesday afternoon, February 2, at 3:30 o'clock at the home of Miss Chew's grandmother, Mrs. Tilton J. Coffey, on K street. A small party of relatives will attend the ceremony and a reception will follow at 4 o'clock.

Miss Evelyn Chew will be her sister's only attendant and James L. Phillips, son of Major and Mrs. Duncan Phillips, and a classmate of Mr. Moorhead at Yale, will be best man.

Baroness Milla Hengelmuller, the daughter of the Austrian Ambassador and Baroness Hengelmuller, was hostess at a party yesterday afternoon from 5 to 6 o'clock for her classmates at the Eastern School.

A number of games were played and a delightful musical program given and a daintily appointed tea table.



MRS. SYDNEY A. CLOMAN.

Mrs. Noble Was Hostess At Dinner Last Evening

Mrs. William Belden Noble was hostess at a dinner party last evening in honor of Miss Constance Satterlee, daughter of Mrs. Henry Yates Satterlee, and the late Bishop Satterlee, and Mrs. C. Kaufman, Mrs. J. Pack, Mrs. of New York. The guests were Lieut. and Mrs. Sherman Miles, Miss Morgan, Miss Parrott, of San Francisco; Prince Koudascheff, Frederick Hildekofer, and Dr. Wallace Naff.

Mrs. Miller Visiting in New York.

Mrs. Edward A. Miller, wife of Major Miller, who is on duty at the War College, is spending some time in New York.

Rear Admiral and Mrs. C. H. Davis have arrived in Washington, and have taken apartments at the Highlands.

Lieut. and Mrs. G. L. Smith were hosts at a dinner party last evening.

Mrs. G. W. Peters has gone to Cincinnati, Ohio, where she will make an extended visit with relatives.

Senator and Mrs. Guggenheim of Colorado have been invited for a dinner on Friday, January 23.

General Buchanan will entertain a party at dinner on Thursday evening, January 27, in honor of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Myers.

The Afternoon Bridge met at Mrs. Samuel J. Steinberg's, of the Tulane apartment, yesterday. After cards a buffet luncheon was served. The prize was won by Mrs. Sol Minister. The guests were Mrs. Sol Meyer, Mrs. Sydney A. Cloman, Mrs. J. Pack, Mrs. Simon Kann, Mrs. Abe Sigmond, and Miss Edith Auerbach.

The Council of Jewish Women will hold a meeting in the vestry rooms of the Eighth Street Temple, Tuesday, January 11, at 2:30 p. m. Dr. Edelson will give a talk on Palestine.

Mrs. Myer Saul and her daughter, Hortense, of Petersburg, Va., who have been visiting friends here, have returned to their home.

Mrs. Jacob Steiner is visiting her sister, Mrs. L. Hamberger, in Baltimore.

PLAYING A PIANO CURING INSANITY

Girl at Ohio State Asylum Improves With Music.

MASSILLON, Ohio, Jan. 9.—Edie Seagrave, an insane girl in the State hospital here, is recovering from her madness by being allowed to play the piano. She became restless and nervous, and an attendant took her from her ward for a walk through the institution.

Arriving at the parlor the girl espied a piano and with a wild cry rushed to it. The attendant sought to stop her, but she reached the piano first, and began to play. It was evident she had once been a good player.

Dr. Eymann, superintendent and noted specialist on nervous diseases, has allowed her regular hours at the piano, and her mind is so cleared up she may soon be discharged. She had been deprived of a piano in childhood, while she was taking lessons.

GASOLINE PROVES FATAL

CHICAGO, Ill., Jan. 9.—Joseph Laybourn, fifty-six years old, 1218 West Chicago avenue, was fatally burned this morning when a gasoline stove upon which he was preparing breakfast for his family, exploded, throwing the burning fluid over him. A pedestrian who was passing here at the time of the explosion rushed to Laybourn's aid, and in attempting to save him was so badly burned that the physicians at St. Elizabeth Hospital reported his condition as dangerous.

CONCERT BY THE MARINE BAND ORCHESTRA

U. S. MARINE BARRACKS Tomorrow Afternoon at 2 o'clock. William H. Santelmann, Leader.

PROGRAM.

March, "Semper Paratus"..... Sousa
Overture, "Oberon"..... Weber
Italian Serenade, "Lola"..... Friedemann
Grand Fantasia, "Tannhauser"..... Wagner
Waltz, "Southern Roses"..... Strauss
Serenade, "Spring Morning"..... Lacombe
Music de Ballet, "Femora"..... Rubinstein
(a) Bajaderetanz No. 1, (b) Lichtentanz der Braute von Kaschmir, (d) Hochzeitszug.

Miss Josephine Dorr, of Cambridge, Honor Guest at Luncheon.

Lieutenant Commander and Mrs. Bulmer Entertain Their House Guest.

Lieutenant Commander and Mrs. Roscoe C. Bulmer were hosts at luncheon today in honor of Miss Josephine Dorr, of Cambridge, Mass., their house guest. The additional guests were the Countess Luise-Alexandra von Bernstorff, daughter of the German Ambassador and Countess von Bernstorff; the Assistant Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Beckman Winthrop, Lieut. and Mrs. U. S. Grant, 3d, Mr. and Mrs. Frank V. Lloyd, of Philadelphia, Pa.; Mr. and Mrs. Manderville Carlisle, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Andrews, Mrs. Hiehorn, Mrs. Thomas Lindsay, the Misses Southernland, Lieutenant Commander Palmer, Henry H. Bingham, Basil Miles, Nathan Weyth, Frederick Brooke, and Reginald Hildekofer.

Miss McLean Entertains Before Dance.

Miss McLean, daughter of Captain and Mrs. McLean, entertained a dinner party of young people in honor of Miss Helen Parker before the dance at the Navy Yard, last evening. Paymaster and Mrs. Stewart E. Barber chaperoned the party, which included Miss Emory, of New York; Miss Dickinson, of New York; Miss Edith Gracie, and Lieut. and Mrs. J. A. Compton, Rigsby, Paul C. Patterson, and Mr. Cooke.

Paymaster and Mrs. John Ross Martin were dinner hosts last evening at the Navy Yard before the dance.

Mrs. R. C. Bulmer chaperoned the dinner party which the Misses Southernland entertained last evening before the dance at the Navy Yard. Their guests were Countess Luise-Alexandra von Bernstorff, Miss Martha Phillips, Miss Katherine Jennings, Miss Gladys Parrish, Miss Laura Merlam, Miss Joanna Schroeder, A. Rustem Bey, the Turkish ambassador, Mitchell Jones, counselor of the British embassy; Lieutenant von Broening, of the German embassy; Lieutenant Commander Palmer, Dr. DeLaney, Major Horton, Phillips Robinson, Captain Van Voorhis, and Basil Miles.

Navy Yard Hop Draws Large Crowd.

A large number of young people attended the hop at the navy yard last evening. Music was furnished for the dancers by the Marine Band and the Dolphin band, and the armory was beautifully adorned with palms, flags, and clusters of roses.

The guests were received by Mrs. Meyer, Mrs. Leutze, Mrs. McLean, Mrs. Lawrence Heap, Mrs. John Ross Martin, Mrs. G. H. Burrage, Mrs. W. C. Nevill, and Mrs. R. Z. Johnston. The committee in charge included Captain McLean, Pay Inspector Heap, Commander R. Z. Johnston, and Lieutenant Lintinger.

The dance was followed by a supper.

A number of supper parties followed the dance last evening at the Navy Yard. Among the hosts of the evening were Rear Admiral and Mrs. Leutze, who entertained a large party of young people, Commander and Mrs. Jackson, who entertained in honor of the Misses McCoullough, of Philadelphia. Among their guests were Captain and Mrs. McLean, Mrs. Parker, and Dr. Jarvis.

Mrs. Everis A. Hayes and Miss Hayes have issued cards for a tea on Saturday, January 15, from 4 to 7 o'clock, at 211 Bancroft place.

Mrs. Hayes and Miss Hayes are at home the first and third Tuesdays of the month.

Much interest is being shown in the forthcoming production of "Cinderella," a fairy play and musical comedy, written in fancy and character by Miss Hawke for the benefit of the National Homeopathic Hospital. The play will be given at the Belasco Theater on Thursday afternoon, February 8, at 3:30 o'clock, and it is hoped that the afternoon will be kept free for the aid of the worthy cause.

The first act is in fairy land showing the fairy queen with floral chariot drawn by swans.

The old story is told in verse and songs, and will show the pumpkin, the rats, the pomegranate, the coach, and Cinderella dancing at the ball.

PULPIT TOPICS FOR TONIGHT IN CHURCHES OF WASHINGTON

McKendree M. E. Church—"The Story of the Pink Rose," by the Rev. R. L. Wright, at 7:30 p. m.
Foundry M. E. Church—"The Making of a Man," by the Rev. Dr. John Wesley Hill.
United Brethren, North Capitol and R streets—"This Man Receiveth Sinners," by the Rev. Charles E. Fultz, at 7:30 p. m.
Luther Place Memorial Church—"The Dying Thief and Others," by the Rev. Lloyd C. Douglas, at 8 p. m.
Church of the Covenant—"Suggestiveness in Nature About Order," by the Rev. Dr. Charles Wood, at 8 p. m.
New York Avenue Presbyterian Church—"A Royal Failure," by the Rev. Dr. Wallace Radcliffe, at 7:45 p. m.
Western Presbyterian Church—"Bringing Others to Christ—Who Should It? How It Is Done," at 8 p. m.
Washington Heights Presbyterian Church—"The Constructive Genius of Christianity," by the Rev. W. D. Moss, at 7:30 p. m.
First Congregational Church—"The Valley of Dry Bones," by the Rev. Samuel H. Woodrow, at 8 p. m.
New Church—"The New Age and the Second Coming of the Lord," by the Rev. Thomas A. King, at 7:30 p. m.
Oriental Esoteric Center—"India and Her Spiritual Life," by Swami Paramananda, of India, at 8:15 p. m.
First Baptist Church—"A Wayside Incident," by the Rev. W. W. McMaster, at 8 p. m.
Temple Baptist Church—"The Turning Point," by the Rev. Dr. J. J. Muir, at 7:45 p. m.
Immanuel Baptist Church—"Bighearted People," by the Rev. Dr. J. B. Clayton, at 8 p. m.

MUSIC.
Luther Place Memorial Church—Special music by the choir at 7:30 p. m.
New York Avenue Presbyterian Church—Special music led by quartet choir at 7:45 p. m.
Plymouth Congregational Church—Entire service devoted to music choir, at 8 p. m.
Trinity Episcopal Church—Cantata, "The Coming of the Kings," the choir at 8 p. m.
Church of the Ascension—Children's vesper service sung by choir, at 8:15 p. m.
St. Alban Church—People's Evensong service sung by the choir, at 4:30 p. m.

The Young Lady Across the Way

The young lady across the way says she overheard her father say he wished the comptroller of currency would not call so often and for her part she thought it was awfully nice of him to pay some attention socially to his business acquaintances.

